



**Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, Michigan's 13th District**

# Hill News

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**News From The Office of Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick**  
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**This Week In Congress:**

**ENERGY POLICY ACT (H.R. 4503)**

Republican-backed Energy legislation passed the US House this week. This measure weakens environmental protections, repeals consumer protections, provides unnecessary liability protections, and provides nearly \$30 billion in tax breaks for energy producers. This legislation, that would cost taxpayers \$140 billion, passed the House last year but ran into a bipartisan wall of opposition in the Senate. Democrats offered a motion that would have changed provisions in the first energy bill to target electricity market manipulation and electricity reliability and deferring oil deliveries to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to bring down energy prices. That motion was rejected by a vote of 230-192.

**GOUGING GAS PRICES**

Several Democratic Members of Congress, including this Member, sent a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft and Federal Trade Commission Chairman Timothy Muris demanding an investigation into the potential price gouging and anticompetitive activity in the oil industry. Gas prices in the 13th Congressional District have soared since the beginning of the war in Iraq. This is an effort to stop the rising prices at the gas pumps now.

**OFFICE OF VICTIM ADVOCATE (H.R. 4587)**

Due to the rising number of sexual assaults against women in the military, I have introduced legislation gives the Department of Defense additional funding to establish an Office of Victim Advocate. This office would be within the office of the Secretary of Defense. Stories of sexual assault and abuse have surfaced consistently since women were allowed to serve in combat roles. This is a step to address this problem and eliminate these abuses. The Office of Victim Advocate would coordinate programs and activities of the military departments relative to services and treatment for victims of violent crimes including, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual violence and child abuse.

**THOMAS SHIPPING JOBS OVERSEAS ACT (H.R. 4520)**

The US House voted on the Thomas Shipping Jobs Overseas Act. America has lost two million jobs since Bush took office. This bill is a bad deal for American companies and especially American workers. This measure gives U.S. multinational corporations more incentive to ship jobs overseas. It adds about \$34 billion to the deficit and includes billions in tax breaks for special interest, while failing to help small businesses or farmers. The Republicans also proposed a rule for the bill's consideration that blocked Democrats from submitting a substitute bill. The measure passed with a vote of 252-178.

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT (H.R. 4567)**

This legislation appropriates a total of \$33.1 billion for the Homeland Security Department. The total includes \$30.6 billion in fiscal year 2005 appropriations and \$2.5 billion in advance appropriations through fiscal year 2008 for the President's Project BioShield program. Among the agencies funded under this legislation are; Customs & Border Protection \$6.3 billion, Immigration & Customs Enforcement \$3.5 billion, the Transportation and Security Administration \$5.1 billion, US Coast Guard \$7.3 billion, Emergency Preparedness & Response \$1.1 billion. The measure passed with a vote of 400-5 and now goes to the U.S. Senate.

**UNIVERSAL SERVICE ACT (H.R. 163)**

I have received several emails and faxes regarding the Universal Service Act, or the Draft bill. This measure would require all young persons to perform at least two years of national military service. Although there has been much attention devoted to this bill, Members of Congress do not have the collective will to reinstate the draft at this time. In all probability this bill will not make it to the floor. You can be sure that I will oppose any move to reinstate the military draft.

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